

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ORM-02 DHA-02 IO-13 NEA-10 PM-04 NSC-05

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FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2301

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 2305

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, PGOV, SU, ET

SUBJECT: NIMEIRI'S CONVERSATION WITH DIRG REPRESENTATIVE

REF: KHARTOUM 2301

1. FONOFF U/SEC MIRGHANI (WHO MUST BE FULLY PROTECTED)

GAVE ME FOLLOWING INTERESTING RUNDOWN ON NIMEIRI'S
MEETING WITH MAJOR ASRATA DESTA SEVERAL DAYS AGO.

2. NIMEIRI TOLD DESTA HE REMAINS INTERESTED IN GOOD
NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS AND HAS NO INTENTION OF ABANDONING HIS
LONG-STANDING ERITREAN MEDIATION INITIATIVE. HOWEVER, HE
FOUND IT DISTINCTLY UNNEIGHBORLY THAT ETHIOPIA WOULD:

(A) PERMIT MILITARY TRAINING OF SUDANESE EXILES IN REFUGEE
CAMPS RUN BY UNHCR; AND (B) BE RESPONSIBLE FOR
AIRLINE WHOSE SCHEDULED CAIRO-KHARTOUM-ADDIS FLIGHT
EARLY JULY 2 OVERFLEW KHARTOUM AIRPORT AT 0300 HRS LOCAL
WITH STATEMENT TO PASSENGERS THAT POOR VISIBILITY
PREVENTED LANDING, WHEN IN FACT VISIBILITY WAS
EXCELLENT. DIRG REPRESENTATIVE SEEMED SOMEWHAT
DISCONCERTED BY NIMEIRI'S DIRECT APPROACH AND SAID HE
WOULD CHECK INTO BOTH MATTERS ON HIS RETURN TO ADDIS.

3. MIRGHANI ALSO TOLD ME HE HAD SEPARATELY EXPLAINED TO
ASRATA DESTA THAT GOS WOULD EXPECT REPLIES
ON POINTS PRESIDENT NIMEIRI HAD RAISED,

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INDICATING HE HAD DONE SO IN VIEW OF PAST SPOTTY

RECORD OF PMAC IN THIS CATEGORY.

4. WITH RESPECT UNHCR ROLE, MIRGHANI SAID NIMEIRI
PLANNED RAISE THIS DIRECTLY WITH TOP-LEVEL UNHCR
OFFICIALS.

5. COMMENT: WHILE SUDANESE RECEIPTION OF ASRATA DESTA
SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT BRISKER THAN FIRST
REPORTED, WE HAVE NO REASON DOUBT NIMEIRI'S PROFESSED
DESIRE FOR GOOD NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS WITH ETHIOPIA
PROVIDED ETHIOPIA RECIPROCATES. BREWER

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NNN

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